

Why a Children's Literacy Resource Guide?

Parents are their children's first and foremost teachers. Today, schools are only one of their learning centres. Activities in the community at large, libraries, media and technological networks all contribute their share to support education.

What is literacy in the 21st century?

Canadians today live, work and play in a world where the only real constant is change.

Galloping advances in science and technology have changed the way we see the world and function within it.

The late 20th century has seen a shift to the knowledge economy, where human resources have become every nation's biggest asset.

How can we prepare our children to be confident, capable individuals and citizen in this 21st century knowledge-based society? We must help them to become literate.

What does it mean "to be literate" in today's fast-paced environment?

It can be defined as having the ability to function in one's environment: the home, the school, the workplace, the community, the world.

The literate person has the capacity to think critically, to communicate effectively, to solve problems and to make decisions to enhance his or her everyday life and to engage in life-long learning.

Families, particularly families "at risk," need strong community support in preparing their children, from birth onwards, to meet the exciting learning enrich their future.

The central purpose of this **Children's Literacy Resource Guide** is to offer to everyone in the community interested in the education and well-being of children an opportunity to participate.

This Guide includes: stimulating learning activities for children of all ages; topics for discussion by parents, teachers, and community organizations; success stories which reflect the diverse ways in which individuals or communities have created learning environments for children, as well as resource information.

This **Children's Literacy Resource Guide** is published by the Québec Federation of Home and Schools (QFHSA) with a grant from Heritage Canada, and aims to help communities nurture their children to become literate citizens.

For a workshop on how to use this Guide contact: info@qfhsa.org

